

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-8, 14-19 and 23-27 are pending, with Claims 4, 5, 14 and 19 amended by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) of January 8, 2004 was indicated as not complying with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2); Claims 4-8, 14-19 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; and Claims 4-8, 14-19 and 23-27 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the telephone discussion between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on July 27, 2007. During the telephone discussion, the present amendment was discussed. The Examiner indicated that the present amendment overcame the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claims 4, 5, 14 and 19 are amended as discussed during the telephone discussion of July 27, 2007, and in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101. Support for this amendment is found in applicant's originally filed specification.¹ No new matter is added.

Regarding the IDS, Applicants filed the reference in question in parent application 09/658,565 on April 3, 2003. For the Examiner's convenience, a substitute copy of the reference is filed herewith, along with a copy of the IDS as initialed by the Examiner of the parent application.

¹ Specification, Figure 5.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
MM/rac

I:\ATTY\MM\247273US-AM.DOC

Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041